



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601

Office: 508.862.4610

Fax: 508.790.6226

www.town.barnstable.ma.us

Citizens' Resource Line: 508.862.4925



Thomas K. Lynch, Town Manager

tom.lynch@town.barnstable.ma.us

Mark S. Ells, Assistant Town Manager

mark.ells@town.barnstable.ma.us

January 22, 2016

Mr. Sean R. Cronin
Senior Deputy Commissioner
Division of Local Services
MA Department of Revenue
P.O. Box 9569
Boston, MA 02114-9569

Dear Commissioner Cronin,

I am writing to inform you that we have successfully launched the Town of Barnstable's Open Budget initiative under our Community Compact Grant with the Commonwealth. You may view this comprehensive budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>. You can also access it by selecting the Open Budget icon in the upper right hand corner of the Town's home page at <http://www.townofbarnstable.us>

The Town partnered with a firm by the name of Socrata which provides the public sector around the globe with cloud-based, software-as-a-service platforms. The Open Budget platform allows us to take the financial information in our current legacy application; Munis, and transform it into intuitive, visually-rich consumer friendly information; quickly and economically.

Budget information is provided for the General Fund and all Enterprise Funds at multiple levels which ultimately drill down to the line item. Appropriations and spending information is provided for the current fiscal year as well as the two prior years for comparison purposes. Also included is the Town's Capital Program. This includes capital appropriations for the Town's General Fund, Enterprise Funds and Community Preservation Fund. The Capital Program area includes; among other details, the project description, the project phase, GPS coordinates on a map and in some cases, when available, a picture.

Providing the Town's financial information in such a way improves our transparency, promotes a better understanding from where government resources are derived, and how they are allocated. Rather than wading through hundreds of pages of budget documents and Munis financial reports, citizens and staff can see budget data in the form of charts, graphs and images, all in an attractive, easy to navigate and understandable way.

We appreciate the opportunity to partner with the Commonwealth on this important initiative. We think you will agree that the site offers our citizens and staff an easy to navigate web based alternative to our budget information which promotes transparency.

Sincerely,

Thomas K. Lynch
Town Manager

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